

The Established Threat of Terrorism

In our time, the unthinkable is possible



By

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It is often said, “One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter”. This statement illustrates the common diversity of the term terrorism. One person’s opinion of what terrorism is may be different than that of another person. So then what is “terrorism” and how do we define it? The answer to this question depends upon an individual’s own perspective of terrorism and how it effects them. The same is true for governments that battle with the threat of terrorist violence on a daily basis.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation defines “terrorism” as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” In the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s definition of terrorism is generally the one most commonly used by Law Enforcement agencies, as well as the general public. It tells us that terrorism is the use of violence against persons or property in the name of political or social objectives. It is important to understand the distinction between the use of violence motivated by political or social reasons, and the use of violence for other reasons. The use of terrorist type violence alone does not qualify as terrorism. A disgruntled ex-employee who bombs his former employer’s building in revenge for being terminated has committed a crime, not an act of terrorism. Violence must be motivated by the furtherance of a political or social agenda before it can be considered an act of terrorism. This political or social element is all-important when defining what is, and isn’t terrorism. True terrorism is violence perpetrated, by individuals or groups, with the goal of bringing about political or social change within a government or population. All violence committed, which lacks this political or social element, will be considered “crime”. The immediate problem that exists in today's planning paradigm is that understanding the difference between the act and the motivation for the act. Preparedness planning must be oriented toward reducing the act, while understanding the motivation for the act. Planning cannot focus entirely on attacks motivated by what is considered the standard terrorist model. For example, a bomb security program should focus on reducing and managing the threat of bomb violence in totality, not just bomb violence perpetrated under the terrorist paradigm. Attacks against any given target could be grounded in either the terrorist or criminal threat models and motivated by any number of issues including political change, financial gain, revenge, fantasies, etc. The key to developing effective security countermeasures is in the understanding of both the terrorist and criminal uses of violence and how to manage such violence no matter what the underlying motivation is for the act. The following text will define the fundamental concept of terrorism and it’s associated threats.

International & Domestic Terrorism

Terrorism can be divided into two basic categories; international terrorism and domestic terrorism. Fundamentally, both of these types of terrorism are the same when it comes to the threat they present, tactics and weapons used, motivations, group structures, etc. The difference between international and domestic terrorism is found in geographical location.

International terrorism refers to terrorism that is perpetrated against American interest by groups or individuals that are citizens of a foreign country. These terrorist groups or individuals, along with their motivations and ideologies, will originate and reside abroad. These terrorist generally view America as the enemy and whether they attack an American target in a foreign nation or here in the United States, it will still be classified as an act of international terrorism.

Domestic terrorism refers to terrorism that is perpetrated against American interest by Americans. These types of terrorist groups and individuals, along with their motivations and ideologies, originate and reside in the United States. And whether they attack an American target here in the United States or abroad in a foreign country, it will still be classified as domestic terrorism.

State Directed Terrorism

State directed terrorism are acts of terrorism against American interests perpetrated by groups or individuals operating as agents of a foreign government. This type of terrorism is generally conducted by nations, which consider the United States an enemy. These groups or individuals will have received training, support, funding, and operate under the direct control of that government. Such groups or individuals will generally be associated with official military or security forces of the foreign government. The motivations for the use of terrorism by a foreign nation could include retaliation for military action, or political and economic sanctions used against that country.

State Sponsored Terrorism

Terrorist groups or individuals, which receive support from a host nation in the form of training, equipment, funding, and a base of operations, are known as being state sponsored. Terrorist groups or individuals in this category operate independently, and not under the control of the host nation. The terrorist group will have no official connection to the host country, but may operate for the country covertly in return for the support provided. Nations that support terrorism may do so for many different groups of varying ideologies simultaneously. The groups themselves may also be receiving support from other nations as well. In return for this support, these groups would be available to conduct terrorist operations for multiple nations, at the same time advancing their individual group agenda or movement.

Single Issue Terrorism

Single issue terrorism, also known as 'special interest terrorism', is a type of terrorism in which a group or individual commits acts of terrorism in the name of one specific cause or movement. This type of terrorism is most commonly seen associated with causes or movements such as abortion, animal rights, environmental issues, etc. Acts of terrorism are generally directed toward corporate

or government entities which are viewed as in opposition to the groups movement. These types of terrorist groups or individuals can originate internationally or domestically.

Narco Terrorism

Narco terrorism is violence perpetrated by drug trafficking cartels and organizations. This type of terrorism is primarily directed toward government entities, which conduct interdiction operations against the drug organization or other drug trafficking organization viewed as competition. These types of terrorist groups or individuals can originate internationally or domestically.

Right Wing Terrorism

Right Wing Terrorism refers to terrorist groups or individuals whose ideologies and movements are generally anti-government in nature. The focus of this type of terrorism can be single or multi-issue in nature, and can include issues such as anti-taxation, pro-constitutional rights, anti-law enforcement, anti-federal government, etc. Groups that are associated with Right Wing movements include; Nazi groups, Hate groups, Anti-tax groups, Militias, etc. These types of terrorist groups or individuals can originate internationally or domestically.

Left Wing Terrorism

Left Wing Terrorism refers to terrorist groups or individuals whose ideologies and movements are generally concerned with social issues. The focus of this type of terrorism is generally single issue in nature, and can include issues such as: anti-abortion, animal rights, pro-environmental, anti-technology, etc. These types of terrorist groups or individuals can originate internationally or domestically.

Religious Terrorism

Religious terrorism is violence perpetrated in the name of some religious doctrine or belief. This type of terrorism can be found associated with groups or individuals from both established mainstream religions, as well as “fringe” religious movements. “Fringe” religions are generally associated with “cults”, while other groups are rooted in mainstream Western, Eastern and Middle Eastern religions. Basic examples of this type of terrorism can be found in incidents of violence associated with the anti-abortion movement in the United States, or with Middle Eastern groups who have declared “Jihad”(Holy War) against the United States. Groups or individuals associated with this type of terrorism are found to be very dedicated to their movements and believe they are being directed by the word of God in most cases. This type of terrorism can be both International or Domestic in nature. Terrorism grounded in religious ideology is being considered the most significant threat in the world today.

Individuals

Acts of terrorism do not necessarily have to be perpetrated by a group. A lone individual terrorist can pose the same level of threat as an entire group. Some consider the threat of terrorism posed by individuals to be greater in some respects than that of groups. This is due to the fact that the

movements of individuals are much more difficult to track than that of groups. The individual can harbor and develop his terrorist agenda and planning in total seclusion without the need of outside assistance. We probably will not know of this individual's existence until after a terrorist act has been committed. Motivations which fuel the terrorist act can be grounded in either right wing political, left wing political or religious ideologies. Revenge or financial gains are also possible motivations. Individuals engaged in terrorism could range from the professional terrorist who makes his living working for terrorist groups or nations, to the average person living in the average community. Either way, it makes this type of terrorism a very dangerous prospect for any government or civilian population. These types of terrorist individuals can originate internationally or domestically.

Weapons of Terror

Any weapon has the potential for use by a terrorist group, however, some weapons are used more often than others. Bombs are used in the vast majority of terrorist incidents, making the bomb the number one weapon of choice. Explosives and bomb components are easily obtainable anywhere in the world. The knowledge needed to construct an improvised explosive device is minimal. The use of bombs also affords the benefit of distance between the perpetrator of this type of violence and the target. The obvious exception to this statement would be the suicide bomber.

Firearms are the second most widely used weapons of terrorism. Firearms are designed to do but one thing, inflict deadly force upon another. We in the United States understand this concept very well, because we live with firearm violence on a daily basis. Firearms and ammunition are available globally through civilian, military or black market sources. Firearms are easily concealed and transportable, require only minimum skill to operate, and are capable of creating extensive damage both physically and psychologically. We all understand the terror associated with images of a man in a ski mask carrying an assault weapon.

Another weapon of terrorism that is becoming more widely considered and feared is the computer. Computers can be used to launch information warfare attacks upon governments, the military, corporations, or private citizens. While still in its infancy, Cyber-Terrorism is now considered a real threat to national security, economic trade, critical infrastructure, corporate and personal privacy, etc. However, information warfare itself is not a new concept and has always been a tactic used by terrorists. Today's sophisticated technologies and communications allow for the waging of information warfare on an unprecedented scale. Through the use of a portable laptop computer and modem, a terrorist can launch an attack against an enemy's computer system through the Internet from anywhere in the world. These attacks could be designed to steal or corrupt information, deny access to a system, destroy the system, spread propaganda, or any other related form of damage.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) are specifically designed to result in the death or injury to many people at once. These weapons fall into four basic categories: Nuclear/Radiological Weapons, Biological Weapons, Chemical Weapons, (which together make up the NBC weapons triad) and Large Conventional or Improvised Bombs as the newest, category. It is important to understand both the destructive natures of these weapons and the potential threat they pose to, not only our society, but the global community as well. In the wrong hands, and properly used, these weapons can cause the deaths of countless numbers of human beings in a very short time. The reality of this

truth make these weapons the most hideous ever devised by humankind. The following text will provide a brief summary of these weapons and the threat they pose.

Nuclear/Radiological Weapons

Nuclear Weapons (NW) pose the greatest threat of potential death and destruction within our society. This threat paradigm is both old and new depending upon how you view it. Nuclear weapons are the newest of the NBC triad, but the one most commonly known. This is due to the extensive Nuclear Warfare preparedness the United States has undergone from the 1950's to today. Nuclear weapons possess enormous potential for loss of life and destruction of property. Measured in megatons (one megaton is the explosive forces equal to one million tons of TNT), these weapons produce a blast effect that is intense enough to consume everything in its path for miles beyond the point of detonation. In addition to the sheer explosive force of these weapons, they also produce a radiological effect termed "fallout." Fallout occurs because of the nuclear detonation that produces radioactive dust particles. These radioactive particles can be carried by the wind, contaminating people and the environment for miles beyond the areas affected by the weapon's explosion.

In the past, the primary threat of nuclear attack resided with the few global superpowers possessing the technology to do so, including the United States, Soviet Union, and China. Today with the advances in nuclear energy technologies, many nations around the globe now possess these weapons or possess the fundamental equipment and knowledge necessary to design and build these weapons. This reality makes the modern day threat of nuclear attack by a foreign nation an even greater concern. However, the potential for use of a Nuclear weapon by terrorists is limited due to several factors. Nuclear weapons and the raw materials used to make these weapons are strictly regulated on a global wide basis. They are extremely difficult and expensive to make or acquire, and easily detectable by governments using sophisticated radiological monitoring devices. This is not to say that such a threat does not exist or should be considered. Theoretically, a terrorist with adequate resources could obtain or manufacture such a weapon, and one should assume that there are terrorist groups with just such an interest. To date, an incident of terrorism involving the detonation of a nuclear weapon has not occurred.

Radiological weapons present a more significant threat than that from nuclear weapons. Unlike nuclear weapons that create damage through a nuclear detonation, radiological weapons produce damage through radioactive contamination. In these types of weapons the production of a nuclear detonation does not occur and is not necessary to create the intended damage. Radiological weapons are devices that utilize a conventional explosive device to disseminate radioactive material throughout the target environment. The release of radioactive material would result in contamination of property that would be present for years to come. People within the target environment could be affected by radiation poisoning which poses a high risk of death and is difficult to treat medically. Developing a radiological weapon does not require the technical expertise needed to construct a functional nuclear weapon. Radioactive material while not that easy to acquire, is accessible in many forms such as hazardous nuclear waste. To date, the terrorist use of a radiological weapon has not occurred.

Minimum capabilities required for successful low-tech radiological terrorism

- Desire to perpetrate a radiological terror incident
- Ability to develop a operational plan from preparation to execution
- Willingness to risk personal injury
- Ability to maintain operational security
- Technical knowledge of radiological material and their handling
- Financial ability to acquire the necessary equipment
- Access to and ability to acquire an appropriate radiological in the required volume
- Willingness to dedicate the necessary labor
- Knowledge of radiological dissemination methods
- Familiarity with and access to commercially available disseminating devices
- Ability to gather target information through low risk methods
- Ability to transport radiological weapon and gain access to the target

Biological Weapons

Biological Weapons (BW) involve the use of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and fungi) or toxins (poisons from living organisms) to produce death or disease in humans, animals, and plants. Biological Weapons are the oldest of the nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) triad and have been used by governments in warfare for 2,500 years. These biological agents are more deadly on a compound per weight basis than chemical agents and rival nuclear weapons in killing potential. Botulinum toxin, for example, a neurotoxin produced by the Clostridium Botulinum bacteria is approximately 15,000 times more toxic than the nerve agent VX and 100,000 times more toxic than the nerve agent sarin. The biological agents of most concern include Anthrax, Smallpox, and Plague, but many other agents are also classified as potential weapons. There is a growing concern that through genetic manipulation, these agents could be refined and made more powerful, and resistant to standard medical treatment.

Biological weapons pose as great a threat as do nuclear weapons and their potential for use by terrorist groups is thought to be feasible. However, biological weapons do not have the ability to destroy property like nuclear weapons, only people are at risk. The majorities of these biological organisms are available in nature and require only minimal scientific knowledge and equipment to produce them as weapons. Rogue nations and terrorist organizations have shown a strong interest in the use of biological weapons because these weapons are inexpensive to produce, difficult to monitor, and can produce illness and death in large numbers of people. Called “the poor man’s nuclear bomb,” biological weapons can be produced with minimal startup equipment and supplies, and can be introduced easily into areas with large groups of people. Several nations and many foreign and domestic terrorist groups are suspected of possessing biological weapons, or the equipment and components necessary to manufacture such agents. These agents are appealing to countries or terrorist groups with limited resources due to the fact they are relatively simple to manufacture. Add to this the fact that biological agents have been used as terrorist weapons in the past making this a threat that should not, and cannot, be overlooked.

Minimum capabilities required for successful low-tech biological terrorism

- Desire to perpetrate a biological terror incident
- Ability to develop a operational plan from preparation to execution
- Willingness to risk personal injury
- Ability to maintain operational security
- Technical knowledge to prepare bacterial or viral microorganism/toxins
- Access to and ability to acquire the necessary organism
- Access to and familiarity with microbiological laboratory equipment
- Financial ability to acquire the necessary laboratory equipment
- Space to set up a small laboratory
- Willingness to dedicate the necessary labor
- Ability to successfully culture the minimum volume of agent required
- Knowledge of biological organism dissemination methods
- Familiarity with and access to commercially available disseminating devices
- Ability to gather target information through low risk methods
- Ability to transport bio-weapon and gain access to the target

Chemical Weapons

Chemical Weapons (CW) are the second oldest in the NBC triad. Chemical Weapons are classified as Nerve Agents, Pulmonary Agents, Vesicants, Blood Agents, and Riot Control Agents. Chemical agents can be in the form of solids, powders, liquids or gases. Various agents can be irritating, incapacitating and can injure or kill. Some agents cause only local effects, some have only systemic effects, while others have both effects. Agents may be inhaled, swallowed, or enter the body through eyes or skin. The effects can be immediate or delayed.

Since chemicals are readily available or easily made, of low cost, are easily transportable, and can be delivered by varying routes, chemicals make an excellent weapon for the terrorist. Most countries, including the United States, are not prepared to deal with a strategic terrorist attack using chemical weapons. However, modern HAZMAT technology does provide us with a limited ability to response to such an incident.

Chemical weapons also pose a high threat for potential use by terrorist groups, but pose less of a threat of damaging effects than do Nuclear or Biological weapons. This is due to the nature of chemical compounds in general. While chemical weapons may have a quicker and more devastating initial effect when released, they do not have the wide spread effect of a biological weapon because they are not communicable agents. There are no “outbreaks” associated with the use of chemical agents, however, they can be very lethal and cause extensive contamination at the site of usage. Chemical weapons also do not possess the shear destructive power of a nuclear weapon. The real threat associated with chemical weapons is in the fact that chemicals are available in every community in the United States, making their use as a potential weapon extremely high. Add to this the fact that chemical agents have also been used as terrorist weapons in the past making this a threat that should not, and cannot, be overlooked.

Minimum capabilities required for successful low-tech chemical terrorism

- Desire to perpetrate a chemical terror incident
- Ability to develop a operational plan from preparation to execution
- Willingness to risk personal injury
- Ability to maintain operational security
- Technical knowledge of chemicals and their handling
- Financial ability to acquire the necessary equipment
- Access to and ability to acquire an appropriate chemical in the required volume
- Willingness to dedicate the necessary labor
- Knowledge of chemical dissemination methods
- Familiarity with and access to commercially available disseminating devices
- Ability to gather target information through low risk methods
- Ability to transport chemical weapon and gain access to the target

Explosive Devices

The last category of Weapons of Mass Destruction is large explosive devices, or commonly called bombs. These bombs may be conventional military ordinance such as missiles and aerial bombs, or improvised explosive devices (IED) such as large vehicle or truck bombs. Their potential for use by terrorist groups is extremely high due to the fact that these types of devices are easy to manufacture, with the necessary components being widely available globally. Statistics indicate that bombs are used in as many as 80% of all terrorist acts making them the weapon of choice and recent trends point to the use of larger more powerful bombs. Examples of the use of such large explosive devices can be found in the incidents involving the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma, World Trade Center in New York, the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, and the bombings of two American Embassies in Africa. The difference between explosive devices and other weapons of mass destruction can be found in the type of casualties produced by the incident. Explosions create trauma and crush related injuries, as where biological and chemical agents produce disease and illness through toxicosis. Nuclear weapons also produce trauma-related injury, however they also possess the element of radioactive contamination. While the contamination factor associated with Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical weapons does not exist with explosive devices, planning cannot overlook the possibility of large explosive devices containing a radiological, biological, or chemical agent. This possibility could result in casualties being inflicted with both trauma and contamination related injuries.

Minimum capabilities required for successful low-tech bombing terrorism

- Desire to perpetrate a bomb terror incident
- Ability to develop a operational plan from preparation to execution
- Willingness to risk personal injury
- Ability to maintain operational security
- Technical knowledge of explosives and bomb components
- Ability to assemble a simple explosive device
- Access to and ability to acquire commercially available explosive and components

- Financial ability to acquire the necessary equipment
- Willingness to dedicate the necessary labor
- Ability to gather target information through low risk methods
- Ability to transport the bomb and gain access to the target

Potential Targets of Terrorism

Any individual, corporation, organization, government, nation or civilian population located on the globe is a potential target for terrorism. No one is absolutely immune from this type of violence, the very nature of terrorism assures that truth. At one time or another, entities from every sector of our society, as well as the global community, have fallen prey to the violence of terrorism. Buildings are bombed, planes hi-jacked, government and corporate officials are kidnapped or assassinated, nations threatened, soldiers and citizens murdered, etc, etc. Incidents such as these have occurred and will continue to occur, as long as groups or individuals choose to utilize terrorism as a method of airing their grievances. The problem exists in the fact that we can't accurately predict when and where the next act of terrorism will occur, or what the nature of that act will be. This reality is the underlying reason for the effectiveness of terrorism as a psychological, as well as physical, weapon. Even if you are not the victim of a direct act of terrorism, you're affected collaterally by the fear, anxiety, distrust, and uncertainty that an act of terrorism creates. And while it may be true that in general anyone can fall victim to an act of terrorism, certain types of targets present themselves as tactically more attractive than others. These include, but are not limited to:

- Federal, State or Local government facilities
- Political or corporate officials
- Military facilities
- Law Enforcement, Fire departments, or EMS
- Public transportation systems
- Corporate and industrial facilities
- Public events
- Historic landmarks
- Educational facilities
- Hospitals
- Commercial facilities
- Retail stores
- Telecommunications
- Public utilities
- Computer systems and networks
- Food or water supplies
- Consumer products
- Agriculture and livestock

How do terrorists select their targets? The answer to this question is a little more complex than one might think. On the surface it would appear that incidents of terrorism occur randomly, as if out of the clear blue. News reports often refer to terrorism as random acts of senseless violence which, for the most part, occur for little or no reason. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. While the victims of these terrorist acts may be random casualties, the act itself is not.

A terrorist is, in much the same way, similar to a common criminal. Criminal acts are never random in nature. A criminal must possess the desire, the ability, and the opportunity to commit a crime. Desire, ability and opportunity are therefore known as the elements of the crime, and their presence establishes some degree of pre-planning. Just as the criminal will conduct planning prior to committing a burglary, robbery, murder, car-jacking, theft, or any other number of crimes, the terrorist will plan a bombing, hijacking, assassination, etc. This process of planning removes the element of randomness in the act. What appears random to the average citizen is actually thought out in advance. Where randomness does play a part is in the fact that several terrorist incidents may have nothing in common with each other. The acts may have occurred at different times and places, may have employed different tactics, or were perpetrated by different groups for completely different motivations.

To better understand how terrorists select potential targets we will examine several key elements of the process. First we will assume the terrorist or terror group possesses the desire to commit an act of terrorism. Desire, which could also be called motivation, is the psychological element in the overall process. It is the underlying reason for the act. The intended target may or may not know the motivation for the attack prior to it happening. The terrorist may issue public statements or threats regarding his motivations prior to an attack, or wait until after the attack when responsibility is claimed. The terrorist may also never communicate the motivation for the attack, leaving us to wonder why? The motivations that fuel the terrorists act are many and can be simple in nature, or very complex. Motivations for committing terrorist acts include, but are not limited to:

- The furthering of political, social or religious agendas
- Bringing public awareness to the terror group's cause or movement
- Creating panic, fear, and distrust of the government among a target population
- Destruction of industrial capabilities or critical infrastructure
- Disruption of normal business or social activities
- Bringing about changes in established laws
- Revenge for real or imagined wrongs or injustices
- Morale building within the group or movement
- Financial gain / Extortion
- Assisting with the defeat of an opposing military force or government

In addition to desire, we will also assume the terrorist or terror group has the ability to commit such acts. Ability is the physical element in the process and includes all the necessary skills, knowledge, equipment and resources needed to carry out the attack. Lastly we have opportunity, the element which creates the need for selecting a target. Without a target to attack, desire and ability alone would accomplish nothing for the terrorist or terror group.

It is in the process of searching for the right opportunity to commit the act of terrorism that target selection becomes so important. Selecting the right target will require the terrorist or terror group to conduct research and planning. The criteria used by terrorists to select their targets are composed of several elements. If the target fits the operational elements of these selection criteria, it may be chosen for attack. The selection criteria is as follows:

Accessibility - To be able to successfully attack the target, the terrorist must penetrate the target's defenses. Does the target allow easy access by the terrorist?

Vulnerability - Even if the terrorist gains access to the target, is the target vulnerable to attack? Targets are generally categorized as either "soft targets" or "hard targets". A soft target is one in which the potential target employs lower levels of security measures. This type of target is considered easily vulnerable to the terrorist's attack. A hard target is one in which the potential target employs higher levels of security measures, making it more difficult to attack. Statistically, soft targets are attacked more frequently than hard targets.

Suitability - Is the target suitable to the group's political or operational objectives? Who has the group declared as the enemy? Does this target represent the established enemy?

Risk to the Operation - What is the risk to the operational element conducting the attack? Can the terrorists escape after the attack? What is the risk of confronting police or government agents?

BioCrime and ChemiCrime: A New Threat Paradigm

The threat we face from Weapons of Mass Destruction is typically associated with a terrorist action or an act carried out by a foreign nation. The vast majority of our current thought regarding the Weapons of Mass Destruction problem is directed toward this end. In addition, the bulk of our current preparedness activity centers on response to an attack perpetrated by terrorists or foreign governments. In general, this way of thinking is both valid and necessary because terrorists or foreign nations which desire to use these types of weapons against us present a very real threat. Weapons of Mass Destruction are designed as tactical weapons in the theater of war. Terrorism, which many consider an act of war, has its roots grounded in a division of conventional warfare primarily known as Psychological Warfare. Terrorism has always been considered a tactic of military strategy throughout the history of warfare itself. However, as time moves forward, all things tend to evolve, as they always seem to do. Today terrorism is defined as the use of force to bring about social or political change. No longer considered only a military concept, terrorism has become a tactic used by many special interest movements grounded in social and political issues. This is how we view terrorism today because that is how we define it. Acts of terrorism perpetrated against American interest and citizens can bring about serious repercussions directed toward the offender. The United States government considers terrorism a very serious issue and response planning is geared toward using vast federal resources for both crisis and consequence management of such incidents. These federal resources would be readily available to assist any U.S. community that has become the target of a terrorist attack. This current government preparedness paradigm, while comprehensive, fails to address the following scenario; the use of a Weapon of Mass Destruction for purposes other than terrorism.

It must be remembered that terrorism is a concept. A Weapon of Mass Destruction is just that, a weapon. So what happens when an individual or group motivated by reasons other than terrorism uses such a weapon? The answer to this question is, a crime occurs. While biological and chemical terrorism are concepts familiar to both the public and emergency response community, the concepts of BioCrime and ChemiCrime are new and not widely spoken of or planned for. These concepts present us with an entirely new threat that will challenge our standard way of preparing for

incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction. While it is true that terrorism is in fact a crime, acts of terrorism result in specific responses that have not been designated for an act of criminality. For example, if a terrorist group introduced a chemical weapon agent into an office building injuring 50 people, the act would fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government due to terrorism being a federal crime. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) being the lead agency in charge of investigating acts of terrorism would be able to call into use extensive government resources to manage the incident. On the other hand, what if a disgruntled employee injured 50 co-workers by introducing a chemical agent into their former employer's office building in retaliation for being terminated from a job. Would this type of incident, which is technically classified as an act of workplace violence, result in the deployment of these extensive federal resources? More than likely, such an incident would not result in a response from federal authorities beyond standard investigative and technical assistance. This is due to the fact that current response planning addresses incidents of terrorism, not criminal use of these types of agents. However, if this type of workplace violence scenario could be classified as a disaster, then certain state and federal resources could be deployed to assist local responders.

While this point could be an issue of debate, it is meant to illustrate the importance of understanding that biological and chemical agents could possibly be used for reasons other than to make social or political statements.

The concepts of BioCrime and ChemiCrime are important to consider from the perspective of local emergency response planning. Motivations for criminal activity can include revenge, financial gain, vandalism, psychopathic fantasies, etc. Motivations such as these, combined with a biological or chemical weapon, could present the emergency response community with problems beyond their normal response planning. For example, training scenarios designed to illustrate the threat from biological and chemical agents typically depict situations such as, a plane flying over a city spraying an agent, or the city's water utility being tampered with, etc. While these scenarios do depict possible methods of attack, they are based on models, which represent mass area contamination similar to that of a military weapon deployment. Preparedness for civilian communities must include these types of possible attacks from other nations, but should also include scenarios which represent trends in our own society. Consider the fact that standard riot control agents, such as pepper spray, are classified as chemical weapons. Now think about how frequently an incident involving the release of these chemical agents into buildings or schools causing mass evacuations and injured victims. These events occur many times annually in communities across America and collectively effect thousands of individuals. However, these events are not considered, or reported as, chemical weapon attacks, which indeed they are. What these types of incidents are not is terrorism. They are criminal incidents involving the use of a chemical agent as a weapon. These events do not result in the deployment of state or federal resources, but are handled by the local emergency response community. The next obvious question is then, what happens if the next time such an incident occurs the weapon agent of choice is not pepper spray, but a nerve agent? Would our current response protocols be adequate to handle such an incident? Are we as a society prepared to respond not only to acts of terrorism, but to a wide range of criminal scenarios involving biological and chemical agents used as weapons?

Conclusion

The issue of terrorism is the most important public safety concern of our time. Considering the fundamental underlying concept of terrorism almost ensures that we will never know in advance when and where such an attack will occur. As we are all aware, significant acts of terrorism have occurred in the United States and we must always bear in mind that no community is immune from this form of violence. Therefore, shouldn't we think a little more in depth on the subject of domestic preparedness? As we know, terrorism is a new concept to most Americans. We hear about such acts occurring in other countries and think how tragic for those people to have to endure such senseless violence. We have sat in our homes and felt helpless as we watched acts of violence play out on our televisions. Now that our threat paradigm has changed, we must begin thinking in new ways. One of the most important ways this new threat should be confronted is through knowledge and understanding. Preparation for such events must begin with the understanding of terrorism and the weapons at their disposal, followed by planning and training. This preparation must be structured from the ground up focusing on the first line emergency responders, the EMS community and hospitals. Planning must continue into all areas of society encompassing all stakeholders within both the public and private sectors. While we truly hope that no more terrorism events occur on American soil, they may. With the presence of even a remote possibility of future terror acts, should we err on the side of preparedness?

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Mr. Knapp is President of Protective Research Group. He is a Certified Protection Specialist with over 24 years experience in the protection industry, including 11 years in security management. He is a graduate of Executive Security International (ESI), Aspen CO., and has obtained education in Law Enforcement, Security Management, Executive Protection, Biological & Chemical Terrorism, Disaster Management, Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS), and Self-Defense. In addition to his career in Security Management, he is also an experienced Bodyguard, Licensed Security Instructor, Basic Life Support Instructor, Workplace Safety Instructor, Safety & Security Lecturer and Author, and a 1st Degree Black Belt and Self-Defense Instructor. He is a member of the International Association of Counter-Terrorism & Security Professionals (IACSP), Terrorism Response Association (TRAI), Association of Contingency Planners (ACP), Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA), Law Enforcement and Private Security Council of Northeast Florida, and American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens.

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